

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,703

Examiner

Luan V. Van

Applicant(s)

KULZER, PETER

Art Unit

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed December 20, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6,8,9 and 11.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/2/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomas Helmholdt on February 1, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, please insert after the phrase "the improvement comprising:" the following -- a plastic pre-baffle attached to and surrounding the outlet of the jet cell, the pre-baffle having two opposing side walls with two coaxial openings formed in the opposing side walls, the openings slightly larger than an outer dimension of the work piece to slow the high pressure electrolyte stream leaving the jet cell thereby creating back pressure within the jet cell; and --.

Please cancel claims 2 and 7.

In the claims 3, 4 and 8, please change the dependency from "claim 2" to -- claim 1 --.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is distinguished over the prior art of record by providing a galvanizing device having a jet cell comprising a plastic pre-baffle attached to and

surrounding the outlet of the jet cell, the pre-baffle having two opposing side walls with two coaxial openings formed in the opposing side walls, the openings slightly larger than an outer dimension of the work piece to slow the high pressure electrolyte stream leaving the jet cell thereby creating back pressure within the jet cell; and a seal situated at the outlet of the jet cell to precisely aligned with an outer perimeter of the workpiece, so the electrolyte adhering to the outer perimeter of the workpiece is stripped off without contact. The prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of limitations recited in the instant claims.

The applicant's argument on page 6-7 is deemed to be persuasive. Particularly, the Angelini reference teaches that the seal 57 is held in place by the cylindrical body 30 carried by plate 60 positioned within a channel or U-shaped notch 61 provided in each wall 29' of the processing tank 29 when in use. (See Angelini, Col. 7, lines 34-46, and Figure 7). There is no teaching or suggestion how the feature 30 of Angelini would surround the outlet of the jet cell 1 of Doetzer et al., and there is no teaching or suggestion of how the cylinder feature 30 of Angelini would act as a mount for the seal 17 of Doetzer et al. The prebaffle 30 is defined in the Angelini specification as a sealing device 30 in exit tank wall 29' (see column 5, lines 56-57). However, the Angelini device teaches air pressure supplied through tube 59 (Figure 7) into chamber 58 in order to expand diaphragm 57 into engagement with the outer surface of the workpiece. This provides contact engagement and positive sealing. Furthermore, the prebaffle does not create a back-pressure in tank 29, since atmospheric pressure tank 29 does not operate as a pressure vessel.

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Since the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of limitations recited in the instant claims, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to perform the claimed process.

Conclusion


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luan V. Van whose telephone number is 571-272-8521. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LVV
February 1, 2007


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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